

News – Release 2

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, Feb. 7, 2003
6:30 a.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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AS OF 5 A.M., GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES ALL STATE OFFICES CLOSED ON FRIDAY, FEB. 7

WILMINGTON, NEW CASTLE, KENT, SUSSEX COUNTY OFFICES CLOSE FEB. 7

As a result of the winter storm, Gov. Ruth Ann Minner announced that all non-essential state employees should not report to work effective 5 a.m., Friday, February 07. Additionally, all government offices in Sussex, Kent and New Castle counties and the City of Wilmington are closed Feb. 7. Again, non-essential employees are not to report to work.

All state employees and all employees of counties and Wilmington are asked to monitor the State of Delaware web site, www.delaware.gov, Closings and Delays sub-page, and listen to local broadcast media for updates.

According to the Delaware Department of Transportation, maintenance forces have been out in Kent and New Castle counties since 8 pm last night, with full snow removal operations commencing statewide at 2 a.m. Friday, February 7. DelDOT reports that roadways statewide were pre-treated with melting agents last evening and very early this morning.

All roadways in Delaware are currently snow covered even in coastal Sussex County. Kent County currently is seeing the greatest accumulation levels ranging from 4-6 inches and New Castle County roadways have snow covering of up to 2-3 inches on most roadways.

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Snowfall accumulation rates are predicted in excess of an inch per hour in Kent and New Castle counties for the next 2-3 hours. Snowfall at this rate means that snow removal crews will be restricted to primary roadways only (Routes 1, 13, 113, I-95, I-495) and will have great difficulty keeping even these roads clear until the snow tapers off.

DelDOT and law enforcement STRONGLY encourage residents to avoid traveling at all this morning unless it is absolutely necessary. DelDOT crews will continue to battle the storm, but with expected snowfall rates for the early morning hours, they will not be able to reach anything other than primary roadways. Those who must travel should allow increased travel time and should expect that most roadways will be snow covered and slippery. Motorists should not expect to travel at normal speeds, even on major roads like I-95. Those who can are encouraged to car pool to reduce the number of vehicles on the roads.

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